

**International Conference**  
**Towards a low carbon economy in the Danube Region:**  
**State of affairs, challenges and prospects**  
**Brussels, 9 July 2013**

**Programme**

Conference Venue:

Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union,  
Rue Belliard 60-62, 1040 Brussels

Organizers:

Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union,  
Brussels  
Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft), Munich

Conference language: English

Registration: By 5 July 2013 via email to [veranstaltung@bruessel.bwl.de](mailto:veranstaltung@bruessel.bwl.de)

[I will participate](#)

[I will not participate](#)

## **Background / aim of the conference:**

---

The energy sector within the East Central and Southeast European part of the Danube Region is characterized by a couple of common problems: these are, besides others, high energy prices, lacking security of supply, high dependency from individual suppliers, deficient infrastructure, a non-efficient energy consumption and a low share of renewables in the energy mix. The necessity of both reducing the dependency from non-sustainable fossil resources and curbing global warming provide strong incentives for rebuilding the economy in the direction of a low carbon model.

The EU is presently engaged in discussing a common line as concerns climate policies and clean energy targets for 2030 and onwards. Even with the present EU regulatory framework, EU member states and (potential) candidate countries alike are confronted with pressing challenges of meeting targets and directives regulating Energy Efficiency (EE), the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES), and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The EU 2020 goals are most prominent in this respect. Clearly, in the Danube Region, we can observe both a certain “climate skepticism” and a reluctance as concerns the introduction of new RES. Here, the European Strategy for the Danube Region with its activities under Priority Area 2 serves as a potential catalyst for enhancing a sustainable energy system in the region.

The conference tries to meet a number of goals:

- (1) To better understand the dynamics and direction of EU and global clean energy and climate policy targets, as articulated by leading actors and experts in the field.
- (2) To analyze the energy characteristics dominant in the countries of the Danube Region and the specific interests, constraints and problems of proceeding to a low carbon economy.
- (3) To identify opportunities and levers in the Danube Region in order to overcome existing deadlocks and blockades for meeting European and global targets on the one hand and for providing energy security and affordability on the other hand. What is and should be the role of the EUSDR in this respect? What are the potential business opportunities deriving from a redirection of energy policies?
- (4) To learn from “best practices” in other countries like Germany, a country that has decided to take a radical turn-around of energy policies with its “Energiewende”. Here, the details of how to implement and finance this shift are still a matter of domestic debate. How can the German experiences - including local “success stories” of EE and RES use, but also conflicts of interests not resolved yet – be made fruitful for the Danube Region?

The conference will gather experts, stakeholders and policy actors from the field of energy and climate politics, with a special interest and focus on EE and RES, from Brussels institutions, from academia, from business and from the national and local level. Representatives from politics, administration, business and experts from the Danube region constitute another important target group of the event.

## **Programme**

9:00                    Opening

*Johannes Jung*, Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, Brussels

*Gernot Erler*, Member of the German Parliament, former Minister of State / President, Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft), Berlin

9:30                    Keynote speeches

### **Towards a low carbon economy for the Danube Region: the European and global perspectives**

Chair: *Johannes Jung*

*Günther H. Oettinger*, Commissioner for Energy, European Commission, Brussels (t.b.c.)

*José Palma Andrés*, Director for Territorial Cooperation, Macro-Regions, North West Europe, DG Regio, European Commission, Brussels (t.b.c.)

*Karl GreiBing*, Head of Department, Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector, State Government of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart

*Kirsten Westphal*, Global Issues Senior Associate, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin

10:30                    Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00

### **Panel I : Energy characteristics of the Danube Region and the challenges of energy transition**

Chair and introduction:

*Oliver Koch*, Deputy Head of Unit, Internal Market II, Wholesale Markets: Electricity and Gas, DG Energy, European Commission, Brussels

Speakers:

*Dirk Buschle*, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

*Miroslav Kukobat*, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

*Ruslan Stefanov*, Director Economic Program, Center for the Study of Democracy, Sofia

*Nataša Mihajlović*, Head of Unit for Energy Policy, Strategy and EU Projects, Sector for Energy, Directorate for Industry Policy, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Economy, Zagreb

*Maja Bozicevic Vrhovcak*, Director of NGO DOOR (Society for Sustainable Development Design), Zagreb

*Heinz Ossenbrink*, Head of Unit Renewable Energies, Joint Research Center, European Commission, Brussels

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

**14:30 – 17:00**

<b>Panel II: Enhancing energy transition in the Danube Region: The EUSDR, experiences from Germany, business opportunities and financing</b>
--

Chair and introduction:

*István Joó*, Chief Advisor, EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Sustainable Energy Priority Area (PA2), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Budapest

Speakers:

*Sandrine Dixson-Deceleve*, Director, University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership, EU Office, Brussels

*Daniel Vallentin*, Deputy Head Berlin Office/Project Co-ordinator, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Research Group “Future Energy and Mobility Structures”

*Klaus Hoppe*, Energy Expert, Department for Environmental Protection, Municipality Freiburg

*Colin Wolfe*, DG Regio, Head of Unit: Competence Centre Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation, European Commission, Brussels

*Albrecht Kaupp*, Consultant for RES & EE, GIZ, Eschborn

*Vlasta Zanki*, Director, HEP Energy Service Company, Zagreb

*Dávid Pelech*, Head of Office at Budapest Danube Contact Point, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

17:00 – 17:30 Short Break

**17:30 – 19:30**

**Panel III:**

**Discussion Round: The future of a sustainable energy system in the Danube Region**

*Chair: Hansjörg Brey, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association*

*Discussants:*

*Rebecca Harms, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance in the European Parliament, Brussels*

*Alexander Knebel, Spokesperson Press and Public Relations, Agency for Renewable Energies, Berlin*

*Helge Tolksdorf, Director, EU Enlargement, Southeast Europe and Turkey, German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Berlin*

*Markus Trilling, Structural and Cohesion Funds coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network, Brussels*

*Damyana Stoyanova, Policy officer in Strategy and Economic Assessment Unit, Directorate General for Climate Action, European Commission, Brussels*

**19:30      End-note**

*Peter Friedrich, Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, State Government of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart*

**about 20:00   End of the conference / Reception / Fare-well**